Supply of Gas from Myanmar

666. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been pursuing Myanmar to Supply piped gas to India; and

(b) if so, the latest prospects for procurement and purchase of natural gas from Myanmar indicating the length and cost of the pipeline required for the purpose and the gas to be purchased and the terms of supply offered by Myanmar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (b)Yes, Sir, India is pursuing the import of natural gas from Myanmar through onland pipeline from Myanmar *via*-North Eastern States of the country. The length of the proposed pipeline from Myanmar border to Gaya (Bihar) is about 1573 kms. and the project cost is estimated to be around Rs. 8,500 crores. GAIL has already submitted its bid in response to Invitation of Bid by Ministry of Energy, Government of the Union of Myanmar for purchase of gas from Shwe & Shwe Phyu fields in A-1 block and Mya field in A-3 block in September, 2006. Government has recently intimated to GAIL, that they are reviewing their decision to sell this gas through the pipeline route. Myanmar is exploring other options of selling the gas.

Exploration of oil in Kerala Coast

667. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ONGC proposes to conduct study on the presence of oil in the Kerala Coast;

(b) if so, what type of study is proposed in this regard at present;

(c) whether any survey has already been conducted to assess the presence of oil in this field; and

(d) the locations in the Kerala Coast where the oil exploration is proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (d) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is actively pursuing search for oil off the Kerala

Coast and hold two Shallow Water Blocks, awarded under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP), three Deep Water NELP locks and one Deep Water Block awarded on nomination basis. As on 01.10.2006, ONGC has acquired 1,10,867 kilometres of 2 Dimension (2D) Seismic, 4259 sq. km. of 3 Dimension (3D) Seismic and drilled 11 exploratory wells in shallow and deep water blocks since inception. 2D and 3D seismic data, along with other geo-scientific data, are interpreted to identify suitable drillable prospects.

Shortage of LPG in Kerala

668. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government, the dislocation of LPG supply in Kerala;

(b) the reasons for the acute shortage of LPG supply;

(c) whether it is a fact that 50 per cent of LPG produced in the Cochin Refineries is diverted to other States;

(d) whether the Ministry will take steps to allot the entire production of LPG in the Cochin Refinery in the State of Kerala itself to tide over frequent crisis; and

(e) whether the Ministry has received complaints from distributions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a), (b) and (e) At present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. However, OMCs have reported a backlog of one to three days in the State of Kerala due to transporters strike, bad road conditions and violence in Mangalore. A representation has been received from All India LPG Distributors Federation regarding LPG crisis in the State of Kerala. Government has advised OMCs to liquidate the backlog in the State of Kerala by operating the bottling plants on holidays and during extended hours.